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LETTER DATED 19 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the intention of the Abkhaz separatist authorities to hold the so-called presidential elections in the fall of 1999 in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-21273 (E) 200799

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Annex

Statement issued on 19 July 1999 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

It has come to the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia that the Abkhaz separatist authorities are planning to hold the so-called presidential elections in the fall of 1999.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses its deep concern at this provocative action and states that at a time when two thirds of the population of Abkhazia, Georgia, is disenfranchised and expelled from the region, the holding of elections, at any level, in Abkhazia, Georgia, is illegitimate. It constitutes an attempt to establish the demographic changes as a result of the conflict and to obstruct the peace process as a whole, all in contravention and outright disregard of Security Council resolutions, decisions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and those of the Council of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia states that the holding of fair and free elections in Abkhazia, Georgia, will become possible only after agreement has been reached on the political status of Abkhazia within internationally recognized borders of Georgia, when all the residents of the region have the right to vote and to freely express their choice, as specified in the statement of the President of the Security Council of 22 October 1996 (S/PRST/1996/43).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses confidence that the United Nations, Friends of the Secretary-General, as well as international organizations will give a due assessment to the provocative actions of the Abkhaz side and will severely condemn any attempt to subvert the process of the comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia.